GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Impact of GM Crops on Medicinal Plants
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of possible adverse impact of Genetically Modified (GM) crops on certain wild varieties of medicinal plants used for Ayurvedic purposes;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study on the impact of GM crops on medicinal plants in the country;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the remedial action taken by the Government to protect rare medicinal plants from negative impact of GM crops?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) to (d): The Department of Biotechnology under Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India is the focal point in the country for planning, promotion and coordination of biotechnology programmes.
All the Genetically Modified (GM) crops undergo elaborate food, feed, and environmental safety assessment including effect on wild varieties following Biosafety Regulatory Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures under Rules 1989 of Environment Protection Act 1986. No GM crop is allowed for commercial cultivation till it is cleared from biosafety and environmental angles.
No medicinal plant with genetic modification has been approved for cultivation in the country. So far Government has neither received any report on adverse impact of GM crops on wild varieties of medicinal plants used for ayurvedic purpose nor conducted any study in this regard.
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